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TAGS: [IAEA](#) [KNNP](#) [PREL](#) [KZ](#) [SY](#) [AORC](#)
SUBJECT: INDIA ADVISES KAZAKHSTAN MUST CLARIFY MESA STATUS
AND SUBMIT FORMAL REQUEST FOR IAEA BOARD ASPIRATION

REF: SECSTATE 76661

Classified By: Political Counselor Ted Osius for Reasons 1.4 (B and D)

¶1. (S) Kazakhstan should submit a formal request to India as chair of the IAEA Middle East/South Asia Group (MESA) to be considered a member of that group, according to Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) directors for Disarmament and International Security Affairs (DISA) Gaddam Dharmendra and Amandeep Singh Gill in a July 21 discussion on reftel. Singh Gill noted that India was only aware of Kazakhstan's interest in a Board seat informally and asked why Kazakhstan had not formally approached the Indian government to ask for MESA support despite frequent contact on other issues.

¶2. (S) Setting aside the lack of a formal request, Singh Gill said Kazakhstan must take "first things first" by clarifying its status within MESA before the group would be likely to support its candidacy. He noted that the IAEA has never formally identified MESA's membership, which has come about "by tradition." Singh Gill recalled that at one time MESA members objected to efforts by Israel -- which Singh Gill said should be "a logical member of MESA" based on geography -- to act as part of the group.

¶3. (S) If Kazakhstan were to clarify its status within MESA and submit a formal request to India as MESA chair, Singh Gill suggested that Kazakhstan could have a "reasonably strong claim" to a Board seat based on its unique history and nonproliferation record. Singh Gill offered as evidence India's support to Kazakhstan following its offer to join the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project based in Cadarache, France in 2007.

WHITE